

At page 22, line 3, please replace "Fig." with --Figs. 6, 6(A) and 6(B)--.

At page 22, line 4, please delete "6".

In the Claims

1. (Amended) A picture encoding apparatus for forming an encoded picture signal of a layer structure composed of a plurality of layers, comprising:

memory means for storing first control data included in header data of a predetermined layer [subsequently] subsequent to identification data;

comparator means for comparing the first control data with second control data included in the next header data of said predetermined layer [subsequently] subsequent to the identification data; and

encoding means [so operated as to transmit] for transmitting neither the identification data nor the second control data when the first control data and the second control data are [mutually] the same, [or] and [to transmit] for transmitting both the identification data and the second control data when the first control data and the second control data are different from each other.

2. (Amended) The picture encoding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined layer is one of a video sequence layer, a [GOP (group of pictures)] group of pictures layer, a picture layer and a slice layer.

3. (Amended) A picture decoding apparatus for decoding an encoded picture signal of a layer structure composed of a plurality of layers, comprising:

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memory means for storing control data included in header data of a predetermined layer [subsequently] and subsequent to identification data; and

decoding means for decoding the encoded picture signal by using, when [none of the control data is existent in the] a next header data of said predetermined layer does not contain control data, [the] a preceding control data stored in said memory means.

4. (Amended) The picture decoding apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said decoding means ~~detects [the] a nonexistence of the control data when the identification data [is not existent]~~ does not exist.

4. 5. (Amended) The picture decoding apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said predetermined layer is one of a video sequence layer, a [GOP] group of pictures layer, a picture layer and a slice layer.

5. 6. (Amended) A picture recording medium having an encoded picture signal of a layer structure composed of a plurality of layers of different types, comprising:

a first encoded picture signal of a predetermined layer including identification data and control data subsequent thereto; and
a second encoded picture signal of a layer [being the same in kind] of a same type as said predetermined layer and [including none of] following said first encoded picture signal, wherein said second encoded picture signal omits the identification data and the control data.

5. 6. 7. (Amended) The picture recording medium according to claim 5, wherein said predetermined layer is one of a video sequence layer, a [GOP] group of pictures layer, a picture layer and a slice layer.

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7. ~~8.~~ (Amended) A picture encoding method for forming an encoded picture signal of a layer structure composed of a plurality of layers, comprising the steps of:

comparing first control data, which is included in header data of a predetermined layer [subsequently] subsequent to identification data, with second control data included in [the] a next header data of said predetermined layer [subsequently] subsequent to the identification data; and

encoding the identification data and the second control data only when the first control data and the second control data are different from each other.

8. ~~9.~~ (Amended) The picture encoding method according to claim 7, wherein said predetermined layer is one of a video sequence layer, a [GOP] group of picture layer, a picture layer and a slice layer.

9. ~~10.~~ (Amended) A picture decoding [methods] method for decoding an encoded picture signal of a layer structure composed of a plurality of layers of different types, comprising the steps of:

storing a first control data included in header data of a predetermined layer [subsequently] subsequent to identification data; and

decoding the encoded picture signal by using the stored first control data when [none of the] a control data [is existent] does not exist in [the] a next header data of a layer [being the same in kind to] of a same type as said predetermined layer.

11. (Amended) The picture ~~decoding~~ method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of detecting [the] a nonexistence of the control data when the identification data [is not existent] does not exist.

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9. 12. (Amended) The picture decoding method according to claim 10, wherein said predetermined layer is one of a video sequence layer, a [GOP] group of pictures layer, a picture layer and a slice layer.

11. 13. (Amended) A picture signal transmission method for transmitting encoded picture data of a layer structure composed of a plurality of layers of different types, comprising the steps of:

transmitting a first encoded picture signal of a predetermined layer which includes identification data thereof and control data thereof, the [and] control data subsequent [thereto] to the identification data; and

transmitting a second encoded picture signal of a layer [being the same in kind] of a same type as said predetermined layer and including none of [the] an identification data of the second encoded picture signal and none of a [the] control data of the second encoded picture signal.

12. 14. (Amended) The picture signal transmission method according to claim 13, wherein said predetermined layer is one of a video sequence layer, a [GOP] group of pictures layer, a picture layer and a slice layer.

In the Abstract

At page 33, line 5, please replace "And in" with --In--.

At page 33, line 10, please replace "And if" with --If--.

At page 33, line 18, please replace "And when" with --When--.

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. The specification has been amended to conform the specification to the drawings and to correct sentence structure. The abstract has been amended to correct sentence structure. Claims 1-14 have been amended to address the Examiner's

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